

From: ["Bryan, David" </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE:GROUP \(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT\)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=DE67FD66319E475AA76B7FB0C64D64B5-BRYAN,DAVID>](mailto:Bryan.David@EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE:GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=DE67FD66319E475AA76B7FB0C64D64B5-BRYAN,DAVID)
To: ["R7 Daily Digest" <Group>](#)
CC:
Date: 9/2/2014 3:23:13 PM
Subject: OPA Daily Digest for 9/2/14

OPA Daily Digest for 9/2/14

Congressional Inquiries:

None

State Government Inquiries:

Sen. Gary Romine – Email – 8/21/14: Requesting briefing for the Missouri Lead Industry Employment, Economic Development & Environmental Remediation Task Force on 9/9/14.
Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364 (open)

Press Inquiries:

Greenwire – Tiffany Stecker – 8/1/14: Requesting interview with RA for profile piece about EPA's relationship with agriculture community. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364 (open)

Burlington Hawk Eye (Iowa) – Kathleen Finn – 9/2/14: Questions regarding Univar RCRA site. Contact: David Bryan, 7322 (open)

Environmental Stories:

St. Louis Post-Dispatch - Exelon doubts EPA will order removal of West Lake radioactive waste - 8/31/14 - Construction has been almost nonstop at the smoldering Bridgeton Landfill this year, with workers laboring even during a frigid January to build the treatment plants and filtering systems that keep the worst of the odors at bay.
http://www.stltoday.com/business/local/exelon-pulled-into-west-lake-problems/article_f69d6f01-4399-54ef-85a5-2287c1258cb1.html

St. Louis Post-Dispatch - Republic Services struggles to gain trust as it deals with landfill headache - 8/31/14 - Buying Allied Waste in 2008 brought Republic Services to the St. Louis area. The acquisition also made it the owner of an infamous landfill. http://www.stltoday.com/business/local/republic-services-struggles-to-gain-trust-as-it-deals-with/article_f65f141d-95f1-5b94-81d0-69d707bed440.html

Brownfield Ag News - Water issues big topic at FPS 2014 (two audio files) - 8/29/14 - Water was a big topic at this week's Farm Progress Show, which was cut short by too much water. EPA Administrator Karl Brooks told Brownfield the EPA is listening and hearing lots of great suggestions on how to make the final rule work better.
<http://brownfieldagnews.com/2014/08/29/water-issues-big-topic-at-fps-2014/>

Brownfield Ag News - WOTUS debate rages on - 8/29/14 - In an interview with Brownfield at the Farm Progress Show, EPA Region 7 administrator Karl Brooks reiterated EPA's

basic message—that the proposed rule simply clarifies the EPA’s jurisdiction for the Clean Water Act. <http://brownfieldagnews.com/2014/08/29/wotus-debate-rages-on/>

Missouri Ruralist - Iowa Soybean Growers Showcase Environmental Programs - 9/1/14 - Speaking at the Farm Progress Show was Karl Brooks, administrator of Region 7 for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, along with other presenters and panelists. Brooks said this show is the perfect place to be talking about water quality, agricultural innovation and cutting nutrient pollution. <http://farmprogress.com/story-iowa-soybean-growers-showcase-environmental-programs-9-117092-printversion>

Lincoln Journal-Star - LES program pulls old fridges, freezers off the grid - 8/31/14 - when she heard that Lincoln Electric System was willing to pay \$35 for an old fridge or freezer, she jumped at the chance to get rid of the white elephant and pocket some cash. http://journalstar.com/news/local/les-program-pulls-old-fridges-freezers-off-the-grid/article_63010f94-7092-5f7f-bc83-00f6519031ad.html

St. Louis Public Radio - After Napa, Missourians Weigh Costs of Earthquake Insurance - 8/31/14 - Last week, a 6.1 magnitude earthquake in Napa, Calif. ripped through a region where less than 6 percent of homeowners and renters have earthquake insurance. Could the same thing happen along the New Madrid Fault in southeastern Missouri? <http://news.stlpublicradio.org/post/after-napa-missourians-weigh-costs-earthquake-insurance>

The News Leader, Springfield, Mo. - Springfield’s planned sewer upgrades: \$200 million more - 8/30/14 - What it is: The amount Springfield officials have proposed spending, over the course of 10 years, to improve the city’s aging sanitary sewer system and prevent sewage from overflowing into area waterways. The plan, which still must be approved by City Council, is expected to be submitted to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources in late December. <http://www.news-leader.com/story/news/watchdog/2014/08/30/springfields-planned-sewer-upgrades-million/14877999/>

Topeka Capital-Journal (Kan.) - Auburn-Washburn’s energy program leads to big savings - 9/2/14 - The simplicity of turning off lights, unplugging computers and appliances and maintaining consistent room temperatures has gone a long way in helping Auburn-Washburn Unified School District 437 save on energy costs. <http://cjonline.com/news/2014-09-01/auburn-washburns-energy-program-leads-big-savings>

Branson Tri-Lakes News (Mo.) - Rockaway Beach church failed to obtain asbestos inspection before renovations - 8/29/14 - The state of Missouri has found that a Rockaway Beach church is in violation for failing to have a building inspected for asbestos before performing renovation work. http://bransontrilakesnews.com/news_free/article_d1e9f1e8-2fb3-11e4-bbfe-0019bb2963f4.html

Joplin Globe (Mo.) - Kansas, Missouri wrestle with challenges raised by prairie chicken declines - 9/1/14 - Soon after the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service added the lesser prairie chicken to its list of threatened species this spring, a prairie fire of sorts erupted. http://www.joplinglobe.com/news/article_30d707ac-3227-11e4-a2fe-0019bb2963f4.html

South County Mail (St. Louis) - Opinion: Who Is The Power Behind The Opposition To Wind and Solar In Missouri? - 9/1/14 - Who is working behind the scenes to shut down the Missouri Department of Natural Resources offices and laboratories so that the possibility of them ever doing the testing no longer exists? Who exerts that kind of control? http://southcountymail.com/opinion/who-is-the-power-behind-the-opposition-to-wind-and/solar/article_43ece588-323f-11e4-83ab-0019bb2963f4.html

Associated Press - Missouri River sandbars will be cleared of plants - 9/1/14 - Workers will soon begin spraying herbicides on sandbars in the Missouri River to clear vegetation, so least terns and piping plovers can build nests. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers says the spraying work will begin after Labor Day on sandbars between Pickstown, South Dakota, and Ponca. http://journalstar.com/news/state-and-regional/nebraska/missouri-river-sandbars-will-be-cleared-of-plants/article_0d30cd6c-ccd9-5e89-8039-94939b718c39.html

Huffington Post - Utility-Sponsored Teacher Training At Mizzou Brings Climate Skepticism And Anti-EPA Message - 8/28/2014 - Public high school teachers in Missouri were recently treated to a utility-sponsored seminar on energy, where they learned that fossil fuels are king and man-made climate change may not be real. http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/08/28/climate-change-teacher-training_n_5709357.html

Midwest Energy News - Q&A: Iowa lawmaker sees ‘groundswell’ for climate action - 9/2/14 - Rob Hogg is an Iowa state senator who spent much of August campaigning throughout the Midwest to bring attention to the changing climate. <http://www.midwestenergynews.com/2014/09/02/qa-iowa-lawmaker-sees-groundswell-for-climate-action/>

Iowa Watch (blog) - Iowa Counties Stick To Home To Win Fights Over Frac Sand Mining - 8/31/14 - A group of northeast Iowans effectively is keeping large frac sand mine companies from mining silica-rich sand in their county by building a consortium that set aside politics and focused on dealing with the matter locally, instead of with state intervention. <http://iowawatch.org/2014/08/31/iowa-counties-stick-to-home-in-fights-over-frac-sand-mining/>

St. Louis Post-Dispatch - Mo. air pollution fees move forward - 9/2/14 - An increase in the fees paid by Missouri's polluters is set to take effect by January 2016. The Missouri Air Conservation Commission voted Tuesday to proceed with the new fees after Missouri Department of Natural Resources staff spent the summer working with affected industries to devise a new fee structure that would keep its air pollution program solvent. http://www.stltoday.com/business/local/mo-air-pollution-fees-move-forward/article_ffeb188e-e130-541f-ad40-a0baa204c3f4.html

National Hog Farmer - Is the EPA Really the Enemy of Agriculture? - 8/29/14 - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has been a main topic of discussion in agricultural circles this week as the debate over the proposed Waters of the U.S. Rule continues to rage. <http://nationalhogfarmer.com/environment/epa-really-enemy-agriculture>

Topeka Capital-Journal (Kan.) - KCC to host Kansas Energy Expo at state fair - 8/31/14 - A state agency known more for presiding over electric rate cases than teaching the public will show a different side at the Kansas State Fair this year. <http://cjonline.com/news/business/2014-08-31/kcc-host-kansas-energy-expo-state-fair>

Missouri Ruralist - Midwestern Governors Make the Case for Better Mississippi River Navigation - 8/29/14 - The governors of Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, and Wisconsin have made their case to President Obama to increase investments on the Mississippi River that will improve navigation, relieve congestion among other methods of transportation, and ensure benefits from the Panama Canal expansion. <http://farmprogress.com/story-midwestern-governors-make-case-better-mississippi-river-navigation-8-116996>

Des Moines Register - Letter: Farmers' success, not EPA, behind 'ruined' corn price - 9/2/14 - The Environmental Protection Agency ruffled the governor's feathers by pressuring his Department of Natural Resources to fly right. "The EPA has ruined the price of corn and caused Deere to lay off people," Branstad said. Meanwhile on Planet Earth, the CEO of ADM, the largest ethanol producer, said a change in the EPA mandate doesn't matter. <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/opinion/readers/2014/09/02/predecessors-demonize-disagreed/14947793/>

NOTE: Paywall issues may keep you from seeing this article. Full text is included at the end of this email.

Des Moines Register - Did Iowa GOP "scrub" website to rid RFS plank? - 9/2/14 - Does the Iowa Republican Party favor the repeal of the Renewable Fuel Standard, and have party officials "scrubbed" their website to eliminate any reference to the controversial platform plank? <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/news/politics/iowa-politics-insider/2014/09/02/iowa-republicans-renewable-fuel-standard-plank/14966911/>

NOTE: Paywall issues may keep you from seeing this article. Full text is included at the end of this email.

Feedstuffs - IN FOCUS: Ag groups call on EPA to 'ditch the rule' - 9/2/14 - "In Missouri alone, nearly 80,000 additional stream miles will fall under the authority of EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers," said NCBA environmental counsel Ashley McDonald at an event in the Show Me State late last month. "Logic and common sense tells us that the surrounding land will also be regulated more than ever before." <http://feedstuffs.com/story-focus-ag-groups-call-epa-ditch-rule-45-117128>

Daily Rolla News (Mo.) - County applies for \$6,541 grant for recycling - 9/2/14 - While there already are some ways for Phelps County Courthouse employees to recycle, a grant through the Ozarks Rivers Solid Waste Management District (ORSWMD) may expand those opportunities for workers as well as the public. <http://www.therolladailynews.com/article/20140902/News/140909859>

Clinton Herald (Iowa) - Opinion: Address U.S. water infrastructure challenges - 9/2/14 - Strong, viable water systems are necessary for economic development, and investment in infrastructure brings jobs to communities. We need industry and community leaders across the country engaged in discussions about how we will keep quality water flowing for future generations. http://www.clintonherald.com/opinion/article_fc098bce-a2f7-511e-89b6-f54dc5500eaa.html

Mondaq News Service - EPA Refuses To Amend Its Backup Generator Rule: Demand Response Breathes Easier - 9/1/14 - Last Friday, EPA published notice that it would not be revising its regulations on backup generators in response to three petitions for reconsideration it had received after it promulgated its final rule in January 2013.

<http://www.mondaq.com/unitedstates/x/337478/Environmental+Law/EPA+Refuses+To+Amend+Its+Backup+Generator+Rule+Demand+Response+Breathes+Easier>

Lexology - EPA reinforces standards to use "representative data" after Sierra Club - 9/1/14 - It would be reasonable for state permitting authorities and industry stakeholders who are considering their needs in applying for a PSD permit to conclude that Sierra Club and the EPA guidance stemming from it have not altered the ability to use representative data from an existing offsite monitor to satisfy the preconstruction data-gathering requirements associated with PSD permitting. <http://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=272a82f6-eeef-402d-8434-ff6028af6bd6>

MIT Technology Review - Controlled Crystals Make a New Solar Material Practical - 8/31/14 - A new kind of low-cost, high efficiency solar cell emerges thanks to crystals known as perovskites. <http://www.technologyreview.com/news/530456/controlled-crystals-make-a-new-solar-material-practical/>

Associated Press - Research could make solar energy more attractive - 8/30/14 - University researchers and utilities are conducting solar panel research that could make the energy source more attractive for Kansas users. <http://ksn.com/2014/08/30/research-could-make-solar-energy-more-attractive/>

Associated Press - EPA staff says agency needs to be tough on smog - 8/30/14 - The Environmental Protection Agency's staff has concluded that the government needs to tighten smog rules by somewhere between 7 and 20 percent. <http://www.kansascity.com/living/health-fitness/article1328090.html>

Climate Central - Cut Carbon, Breathe Easier, Live Longer - 8/31/14 - What if I offered you an investment that would make us all healthier, save thousands of lives, and pay for itself? It would be hard to turn down a deal like that. <http://www.climatecentral.org/news/cut-carbon-breathe-easier-live-longer-17959>

CleanTechnica - Renewable Energy Now Accounts For 80% Of New Generation (What's The Catch?) - 9/1/14 - According to the latest report from the International Energy Agency, renewable energy now accounts for 80 percent of new generation among the 34 developed countries in the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development. <http://cleantechnica.com/2014/09/01/iea-report-forecasts-slow-renewable-energy-growth/>

Forbes - Meat-Eaters Could Cause 'Dangerous Climate Change', Scientists Warn - 8/31/14 - British scientists have told meat-lovers they must swap hamburgers and steaks for a vegetable-rich diet in order to help prevent climate change. Researchers at Aberdeen and Cambridge universities carried out a joint study exploring what would happen if the world continued to adopt a western-style diet based around "excessive consumption" of food, particularly "emission-intensive" meat and dairy products. <http://www.forbes.com/sites/jasperhamill/2014/08/31/meat-eaters-could-cause-dangerous-climate-change-scientists-warn/>

NBC News - Climate Hack? How Plastics Could Help Save Us From Greenhouse Gases - 8/30/14 - As the world grapples with greenhouse gas emissions still rising despite years of political wrangling over how to combat global climate change, a technology to convert carbon dioxide and methane into plastic is emerging as one potential market-driven solution. <http://www.nbcnews.com/science/environment/climate-hack-how-plastics-could-help-save-us-greenhouse-gases-n191541>

AgWeb - EPA Hopes to Clarify Clean Water Proposal - 8/31/14 - Tom Reynolds, EPA associate administrator of external affairs, says the latest concern has been over maps that use data developed by the U.S. Geological Survey and the Fish & Wildlife Service and show locations and flow patterns of many of the nation's waterways. In the statement below, Reynolds attempts to put some of those concerns to rest. http://www.agweb.com/article/epa_hopes_to_clarify_clean_water_proposal_NAA_Ben_Potter/

Nature World News - A Water Watergate? Critics Claim EPA Power Grab - 8/30/14 - Farmers and private land owners are getting pretty nervous about maps recently released to the public by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Critics of the Clean Water Act are concerned that the EPA will use the existence of intermittent waterways to expand its influence and control across states. EPA officials flatly deny this, saying that the public is being misled. <http://www.natureworldnews.com/articles/8804/20140830/water-watergate-critics-claim-epa-power-grab.htm>

Inside Climate - Keystone Ads Mislead on Canada's Deep Cuts to Environmental Monitoring - 9/2/14 - Canada has cut nearly \$3 billion in spending and up to 5,000 jobs from its science-based departments, according to a union representing federal scientists. <http://insideclimatenews.org/news/20140902/keystone-ads-mislead-canadas-deep-cuts-environmental-monitoring>

Midwest Energy News - Survey finds customers support solar as utilities push back - 9/02/14 - While utilities in the Midwest and elsewhere have often been resistant to the incursion of rooftop solar and other distributed energy sources, a new survey shows their customers have a very different view.

<http://www.midwestenergynews.com/2014/09/02/survey-finds-customers-support-solar-as-utilities-push-back/>

Greenpeace - 7 reasons to claim water for life, not for coal (blog) - 9/1/14 - Safe, affordable and accessible water is one of our planet's scarcest natural resources. Many people don't have access to fresh water for sanitation, agriculture, or even to drink. <http://www.greenpeace.org/international/en/news/Blogs/makingwaves/world-water-week/blog/50447/>

Clean Technica - How Much Do You Really Spend On Energy? - 9/1/14 - How your day-to-day decisions affect the climate is hard to access and measure. How your day-to-day decisions impact your finances is significant, direct, and can be measured precisely. <http://cleantechnica.com/2014/09/01/much-really-spend-energy/>

ZDNet - The energy sector's perfect storm - 9/2/14 - The energy sector has never looked more interesting - can the staid utility industry embrace the digital transformation strategic models required to stay relevant or will they be crushed in the emerging battle between tech and energy companies? <http://www.zdnet.com/the-energy-sectors-perfect-storm-7000033185/>

Fuel Fix - Water resources a problem for energy extraction worldwide, report finds - 9/2/14 - The ability to harvest oil and gas from dense rock formations offers the promise of fueling the world for decades to come, but a new report warns that countries may not have enough water to tap those underground resources.

<http://fuelfix.com/blog/2014/09/02/water-resources-a-problem-for-energy-extraction-worldwide-report-finds/>

Thomson Reuters Foundation - Water and energy sectors must work together to meet fast growing demand - global water forum - 9/1/14 - Decision makers in the water and energy sectors must work together to find sustainable solutions to the world's growing demand for both resources, delegates said on Monday, at the start of a global conference addressing water and development issues. <http://www.trust.org/item/20140901175620-emw8j/>

Governing - Facing Climate Change, Cities Embrace Resiliency - 9/2/14 - Lacking substantial state or federal support, local governments like Dubuque, Iowa and throughout the country are using natural disasters as a way to get their infrastructure, personnel and budgets better prepared for the next. <http://www.governing.com/topics/transportation-infrastructure/gov-climate-change-cities-resiliency.html>

New Scientist - And now the weather, featuring climate change blame - 8/28/14 - A new technique connecting individual weather events with the impact of greenhouse gas emissions could bring climate change into everyday weather reports. <http://www.newscientist.com/article/mg22329842.400-and-now-the-weather-featuring-climate-change-blame.html>

The Economist - A new green wave - 9/2/14 - A few pioneering businesses are developing "sustainability policies" worthy of the name. The new wave is more akin to investing now to have a license to operate in future, when consumers, lobbyists and regulators will be ever more demanding about the way firms behave.

<http://www.economist.com/news/business/21614152-few-pioneering-businesses-are-developing-sustainability-policies-worthy-name-new>

The Hill - Climate talks: Five things to know - 8/31/14 - International negotiators have been working for years on an agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions around the world to fight climate change. The negotiations caught the American public's attention with reports that President Obama is pushing for a voluntary agreement that would allow him to bypass the Senate. <http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/216285-climate-talks-five-things-to-know>

Environmental Leader - Study: Calculating the True Cost of CO2 Emissions - 9/2/14 - Taking into account the full amount of carbon dioxide that power plants generate during their lifetime instead of tracking annual emissions could be a more helpful way to look at the impact of power plant emissions. <http://www.environmentalleader.com/2014/09/02/study-calculating-the-true-cost-of-co2-emissions/>

Clean Air Watch (blog) - Make Your Driving More Eco-Efficient - 8/31/14 - In an Eco-friendly world where we are conscious about preserving the environment, most people want to do all they can to save Mother Earth. However, driving a 'Green' vehicle can be costly, and you may not recover your costs when it comes to fuel efficiency for years to come.

<http://www.cleanairwatch.org/2014/08/make-your-driving-more-eco-efficient.html>

Washington Post - Are parabens and phthalates harmful in makeup and lotions? - 9/1/14 - Should you worry about the chemicals in your makeup, lotion, shaving cream, soap and shampoo? The answer is a clear maybe. http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/are-parabens-and-phthalates-harmful-in-makeup-and-lotions/2014/08/29/aa7f9d34-2c6f-11e4-994d-202962a9150c_story.html

Climate News Network - Satellite mapping shows ice caps' faster melt rate - 9/1/14 - Scientists have been able to measure more accurately than ever the thickness of the world's major ice caps – revealing that melting is causing the loss of 500 cubic kms of ice annually. <http://www.climate newsnetwork.net/2014/09/satellite-mapping-shows-ice-caps-faster-melt-rate/>

Environmental Leader - FuelCell Energy's Carbon Capture Advances - 9/2/14 - FuelCell Energy says it's moving forward with its carbon capture project that uses Direct FuelCell (DFC) technology to separate CO2 from the emissions of coal-fired power plants. <http://www.environmentalleader.com/2014/09/02/fuelcell-energys-carbon-capture-advances/>

Fortune - Drinking or fracking? Report finds top shale plays globally are in places with scarce water - 9/2/14 - As fracking is set to go global, one research organization warns that some of the best plays around the world are in areas that are already facing water shortages. <http://fortune.com/2014/09/02/fracking-drinking-water/>

Indianz.com - Opinion: Energy development can help secure tribal independence - 9/2/14 - Natural gas and oil development can strengthen American Indian communities while upholding their traditional values. <http://www.indianz.com/News/2014/014931.asp>

Chemical & Engineering News - Carbon Tetrachloride Emissions Continue Despite Ban - 9/1/14 - Researchers estimate releases of stratospheric-ozone-depleting chemical average 39,000 tons per year even though the Montreal protocol has severely restricted its use. <http://cen.acs.org/articles/92/i35/Carbon-Tetrachloride-Emissions-Continue-Despite.html>

Environmental Leader - Climate Change Boosts Some Arctic Industries - 8/29/14 - Shipping, fishing and tourism in the Arctic are getting a boost from climate change — but at a price, says Reuters, adding the economic benefits aren't a “cold rush.” <http://www.environmentalleader.com/2014/08/29/climate-change-boosts-some-arctic-industries/>

Grist Mill (blog) - Why coal is (still) worse than fracking and cow burps - 8/30/14 - Natural gas, by contrast, produces half as much carbon dioxide when it burns, and thus, the fracking boom has been credited with a decline in U.S. greenhouse gas emissions. So far so good, right? Umm, maybe. <http://grist.org/climate-energy/why-coal-is-still-worse-than-fracking-and-cow-burps/>

New York Times - Swirls of Dust and Drama, Punctuating Life in the Southwest - 8/30/14 - Last week, a dense dust storm turned daytime into night in Palm Springs, Calif., “blowing so bad that I could not even see 20 feet in front of my Jeep,” Scott Pam, a local photographer. The best way to explain a haboob is to say it is a tsunami of sand. <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/08/30/us/swirls-of-dust-and-drama-punctuating-life-in-the-southwest.html>

Domestic Fuel - FAPRI: Corn Prices Down, Ethanol Future Depends on EPA - 9/2/14 - Corn prices are down, and the future of ethanol seems to hinge upon what the government does on the Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS). <http://domesticfuel.com/2014/09/02/fapri-corn-prices-down-ethanol-future-depends-on-epa/>

Domestic Fuel - Growth Energy's Model Ethanol Plant - 9/2/14 - During the Farm Progress Show last week several companies featured some cool technologies and displays featuring agriculture's role in producing clean energy such as biofuels. <http://domesticfuel.com/2014/09/02/growth-energys-model-ethanol-plant/>

Domestic Fuel - Short Rotation Woody Crops Ideal for Energy - 9/2/14 - Research from the University of Tennessee Center for Renewable Carbon has found that fast growing, short rotation wood crops (SRWC) are ideal as a biomass source to produce bionergy and biofuels. <http://domesticfuel.com/2014/09/02/short-rotation-woody-crops-ideal-for-energy/>

Biomass Magazine - Can the EPA Do Its Job? - 8/1/14 - As the wood and pellet stove and boiler industry gets closer to facing new EPA regulations, there is a striking disconnect between industry expectations and the EPA's mandate. <http://www.biomassmagazine.com/articles/10846/can-the-epa-do-its-job>

Washington Times - Editorial: Pressing the climate hoax – 9/1/14 - The globalists are taking the next step in the war on carbon dioxide. Scientists have linked this gas to the

feeding of healthy plants and the blossoming of flowers <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2014/sep/1/editorial-pressing-the-climate-hoax/>

The Hill - EPA regs a smart investment for utilities - 9/2/14 - Earlier this year, Barclays sent ripples through the U.S. electric power industry when it downgraded the entire sector's credit rating. Traditionally deemed one of the most reliable investment opportunities, the sector's downgrade to "under weight" means that electric power providers may have a harder time accessing cheap credit. <http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/energy-environment/216391-epa-regs-a-smart-investment-for-utilities>

Huffington Post - Secretary-General: Now Is the Time to Act on Climate Change - 9/2/14 - Climate change is not just an issue for the future, it is an urgent issue for today. Instead of asking if we can afford to act, we should be asking what is stopping us, who is stopping us, and why? http://www.huffingtonpost.com/ban-kimoon/now-is-the-time-to-act-on_b_5738574.html

Daily Caller - Opinion: Obama Uses His Infamous Pen For Green Energy Cronyism - 9/2/14 - The clock has run out on the Production Tax Credit (PTC) and its time is past. Thankfully, there's no amount of political wrangling that the president can engage in to prevent this. <http://dailycaller.com/2014/09/02/obama-uses-his-infamous-pen-for-green-energy-cronyism>

Phys.org - Scientists create renewable fossil fuel alternative using bacteria - 9/2/14 - The development is a step towards commercial production of a source of fuel that could one day provide an alternative to fossil fuels. The ultimate goal is to insert this engineered system into photosynthetic bacteria, so as to one day directly convert solar energy into chemical fuel. <http://phys.org/news/2014-09-scientists-renewable-fossil-fuel-alternative.html>

Greenwire - Former Senate aide picked to lead Corn Growers association - 9/2/14 - The National Corn Growers Association has selected Chris Novak as chief executive of the trade association. Novak comes to NCGA from the National Pork Board, where he also served as CEO for six years. He will replace Rick Tolman, who is retiring after 14 years with the association. <http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1060005119/>

Greenwire - DOE seeks input on transport trains despite lack of storage site - 9/2/14 - The Department of Energy is seeking ideas on how to obtain rail cars to haul 150-ton casks filled with spent radioactive fuel, though the trains have nowhere to travel because of the lack of a national storage repository for nuclear waste. <http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1060005098/>

E&E TV - Commission Chair LaFleur talks carbon rule challenges, reliability, Order 1000, Senate politics (video) - 9/2/14 - During today's OnPoint, the Honorable Cheryl LaFleur, chair of the commission, reacts to President Obama's recent nomination of Arkansas regulator Colette Honorable to FERC. LaFleur looks back at the political, regulatory and court challenges of the past year and previews the agenda for the remainder of her term as chair. <http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1060005109/>

Press Releases:

Link to all R7 press releases: <http://go.usa.gov/Qx5>

None

Fact Sheets:

Link to all R7 fact sheets: <http://www.epa.gov/region7/factsheets>

None

Upcoming Administrator/RA Events:

* New additions noted with an asterisk

9/3-4/14 – Office of Water Visit to Region 7, Regional Office. Contact: Karen Flournoy, 7782

9/10/14 - Kansas City Steel Redevelopment/Walmart Grand Opening, Kansas City, Kan. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364

9/10/14 – U.S. Health & Human Services Senior Leadership Meeting (Clean Power Plan), Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Curtis Carey, 7506

9/14-17/14 – Environmental Council of the States (ECOS) Fall Meeting, Santa Fe, N.M. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

8/28/14 – The Nature Conservancy-Missouri Board of Trustees Reception, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

8/29/14 – Interview with Greenwire, Regional Office. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364

8/30/14 – Dedication Ceremony – Kickapoo Diabetes Walking/Running Trail, Horton, Kan. Contact: Patrick Bustos, 7969

9/30/14 – Midwest Energy Policy Conference, St. Louis, Mo. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555

10/9/14 – Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce Energy & Environmental Roundtable and Reception, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Dave Bryan, 7433

10/10/14 – Nebraska State Bar Association, La Vista, Neb. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

10/30/14 – COOP Exercise, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Chris Taylor, 7736

DRA:

9/10/14 - Next Generation State Visit, Jefferson City, Mo. Contact: Kevin Barthol, 7264

9/16/14 - Meet with Arthur Elkins, Office of Inspector General, Regional Office Contact: Renee McGhee-Lenart

10/7/14 - Employee Appreciation Event, Regional Office contact: Monica Espinosa, 7541

RA/Immediate Office

None

Other Events

AWMD

None

CNSL

None

ECO/EJ

* **9/30/14 - 10/2/14** - Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem Solving Project Officer Training, Washington, D.C. Contact: Corazzin, 7429

9/30/14 – National EJ Coordinator’s Meeting in Washington, D.C. Contact: Tamara Freeman, 7094

ENSV

None

PLMG

None

RA/OPA

9/29-30/14 - Healthy Schools Outreach, Missouri School Plant Managers’ Association Conference, Four Seasons, Lake of the Ozarks, Mo. Contact: Kathleen Fenton, 7874 and Harry Diesel, 7382

SUPR

None

WWPD

9/8-11/14 – National EPA Small Systems Drinking Water Technical Conference, Cincinnati, Ohio. Contact: Stan Calow, 7410

9/9/14 – Iowa Department of Natural Resources Drinking Water Program Meeting, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Neftali Hernandez-Santiago, 7036

***9/10-11/14** – Kansas Department of Health and Environment Geology Seminar presentations, Wichita, Kan. Contacts: David Garrett, 7159, Kurt Hildebrandt, 7413

9/18-19/14 – Shell Creek Watershed Planning Meeting, Platte Center, Neb. Contact: Heather Duncan, 7640

Des Moines Register - Letter to the Editor

Farmers’ success, not EPA, behind ‘ruined’ corn price

Ron Kielkopf, Fremont, Iowa
11:06 p.m. CDT September 1, 2014

The Environmental Protection Agency ruffled the governor’s feathers by pressuring his Department of Natural Resources to fly right. It’s an election year, so a distraction was due.

"The EPA has ruined the price of corn and caused Deere to lay off people," Branstad said. Meanwhile on Planet Earth, the CEO of ADM, the largest ethanol producer, said a change in the EPA mandate doesn't matter. With oil over \$80 a barrel and corn under \$4 a bushel, ADM will make more than ever, export more as in this country we have a "blend wall" of only so much can be used with the 10 percent ethanol requirement.

Why not change it to 15 percent? The elephant in that room is none other than the Koch brothers, Joni Ernst's biggest backers. They are spending \$300 million on this election nationwide.

Why did the price of corn drop so much so fast? Branstad can blame the weatherman. We are raising more this year than we can use thanks to the rain all summer. And thanks to three years of high prices, more corn acres were planted worldwide.

Why the sudden need for Deere to slow production? The price of corn and the fact the Republican-controlled House has not moved forward on renewing Section 179 and bonus depreciation. All this stimulus also made it possible for the governor to brag about Iowa's lower unemployment rate and a healthy budget. His predecessor didn't have those gifts.

We miss Bob Ray and Jim Leach. They didn't demonize those who disagreed with them.

— Ron Kielkopf, Fremont

Des Moines Register

Did Iowa GOP "scrub" website to rid RFS plank?

By William Petroski, bpetrosk@dmreg.com
11:59 a.m. CDT September 2, 2014

Does the Iowa Republican Party favor the repeal of the Renewable Fuel Standard, and have party officials "scrubbed" their website to eliminate any reference to the controversial platform plank?

That's an allegation being made by Americans United for Change, a liberal activist group based in Washington, D.C., which questions the Iowa GOP's enthusiasm for renewable fuels such as ethanol and biodiesel, which are widely supported by Iowa's farmers and support thousands of Iowa jobs.

As it turns out, the Iowa Republican Party -- whose past leadership was dominated by a so-called "Liberty faction" -- did adopt a party platform in 2012 adopting a free-market stance on energy issues and opposing the use of "any regulatory body to dictate the type of energy that will be produced and used." Biofuels such as ethanol should be encouraged, but not mandated or subsidized, the platform said.

But the most recent Iowa GOP platform, adopted in June, doesn't specifically address the issue of the Renewable Fuel Standard, which is a federal requirement that helps ensure a minimum amount of ethanol and biodiesel is blended into the U.S. fuel supply. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has proposed scaling back the amount.

Jeremy Funk, a spokesman for Americans United for Change, issued a statement which reported that IowaGOP.org had suddenly become "temporarily unavailable" late last week, just minutes after drawing criticism for including calls to repeal the Renewable Fuel Standard in their official party platform under the section, IowaGOP.org/About.

"The timing of the website coming down seems a little too convenient to be a coincidence," Funk said.

"If the Iowa GOP are in fact busy scrubbing their website, that is tantamount to admitting they're wrong and (U.S. Senate candidate) Joni Ernst's 'philosophical opposition' to the RFS is wrong for Iowa's economy and completely out-of-step with Iowa voters. The Iowa GOP and Joni Ernst have every right to reject the RFS as their Big Oil donors want them to -- but don't try to pull the wool over voters' eyes about it."

Jeff Patch, an Iowa Republican Party spokesman, said Tuesday that the Republican Party of Iowa's website hadn't been updated for a number of years and he suggested nothing sinister had happened.

"Chairman Jeff Kaufmann made building a more functional, modern website one of his priorities. We planned the transition for weeks, and RPI updated the site over the Labor Day weekend. We don't make website decisions based on unfounded attacks from liberal interest groups. The website revamp replaced the 2012 platform with the 2014 platform, which was adopted at the June 2014 statewide convention," Patch said.

Gov. Terry Branstad, a supporter of the Renewable Fuel Standard, told reporters Tuesday there are no stronger backers of the Renewable Fuel Standard than Republican state legislators and GOP members of Iowa's congressional delegation.

Then asked why the Iowa Republican Party didn't adopt a strong stance in favor of the Renewable Fuel Standard, Branstad said what's important is that Republican leaders such as himself have been vocal advocates

Ernst has defended her support for the renewable fuels standard and last month she urged six Iowa TV stations to pull a political advertisement that her campaign claimed deliberately distorted her position on the federal mandate.